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IS GREATER THAN ROYALTY ITSELF.

SHE GOT THE SACK.

HOW BIRDIE LANCASTER WAS SAVED FROM THE WABASH.

There Is but One Thing to Do and Almost Takes the Fatal Plunge.

[Copyright, 1803, by Charles B. Lewis.] She gained the bank of the river at last and stood for a moment gazing across the majestically moving current at the forest on the other shore. Her face was very pale, and there was a look of wildness in her eyes, but her firmly compressed lips proved that she had fully and firmly made up her

mind to the desperate act.
Yes. Birdie Lancaster had decided to commit suicide by casting her fair form into the Wabash river. She had not rushed things. She had taken a full hour to think the matter over, and she had weighed all the pros and cons. There was a bushel of pros to a peck of cons, and when she finally came to realize the fact she left her father's

bouse to find a watery grave,
"Mother will be almost heartbroken," she mused as she removed her fall hat and hung it on a hickory limb, "but my resolu-



"HOW SHE WILL MISS ME!" tion is taken. If I had a thousand mother to break their hearts, I would not draw back now! I wish I had brought along a

glass to see how my hair looked." Two minutes galloped into the past. Then she removed her gloves and said: "Poor, dear Sister Emma, but how she will miss me! It is hard to part from those you love, and yet I will stick to what I said. I suppose it would be more stylish to be found drowned with lavender kids on, but it will be all the same up there. Angels do not wear kids of any color."

Two more large, full weight minutes

slipped into the past, never to be heard of again, and Birdie whispered: "I think I will leave this cloak behind me as well. I am a much better figure without it, and perhaps mamma can cut it over for Emma. I am now ready to take the fatal plunge. I wish I had my powder rag here, but I must not be too particular about my looks. Poor mamma and Emma! As to father, he will probably be real glad "Birdie!

It was the voice of her father, and she turned just as he burst through the bushes.
"Well?" she haughtily queried.

"Birdie, what would you do?"
"Drown myself, sir! Two hours ago I told you I must have a sealskin sack, with a storm collar, if I kept up with the proces-sion this winter. You refused to buy it; therefore I die!"

"Birdie, can't you possibly get along with-

"I cannot. Every girl in my set is going to have one, and I must either follow suit or lose the standing I enjoy. It is a sack or death!"

"Come and get the cold cash!"

"Oh, you dear, sweet, lovely, darling old oul! Let me kiss you a thousand times! How kind and noble and generous in you to do this! It is to be a 50 inch sack, with a high collar, and regular seal, and very high collar, and regular seal, and lined with brown satin and—oh, papa, you have made your Birdle so happy that she can hardly speak to you!"

And the majestic current rolled on and

on. And the tall sycamores on the banks of the Wabash bowel their heads and smiled. And the great vultures flying low croaked their disappointment. And Birdie Lan-caster was happy—oh, so happy!

THE ARIZONA KICKER.

A Postmaster Who Ought to Be Run Off

CANSUCH THINGS BE?-It is no secret that the editor, publisher and proprietor of THE KICKER, who also conducts a grocery, meat market, feedstore, gunshop and boot and aloe store under the same roof, and who is mayor of this town and state senator from this district and recognized leader of the 400 in the community, has had a longing to be postmaster. An eastern editor who gets his picture in a spelling book may die satis-fied, but a different ambition prevails in this unrestricted community. We are a people who are willing to give every hustler a lift upward, and no hustler can get too much office. For upward of two years we have been trying to work the pr



bent out and ourself in, but all our efforts have resulted in failure. When we discovered that nothing could be done through the Harrison administration, we waited patiently for that of Cleveland, but our waiting has been in vain. The critter who is in seems secure in his place. On several occasions we have called the attention of the postmaster general to the manner in which our postoffice was run, and we have still another specimen to offer. We called at the office the other day to make a complaint about loss mail. The postmaster was site "WHO IS THIS A-TALKIN TO ME ANYHOW?"

ting with his feet cocked up on a mailbag and one of our eastern exchanges in his hand. We had scarcely entered the place when he yelled:

de spryness of a nigger 20 y'ara ole! Hu!
Dat cane wasn't a foot high, but whar am I at?"

"What yer want here!"

We are a courteous cuss by instinct and cultivation, and there was no pizen in our voice as we stated our errand. Before we had half finished he pounded the mailbag with his heof and shouted:

"Who is this a-talkin to me anyhow?"

The knockkneed, swivel jointed enctus cater to pretend not to know us, when we have shot him twice and licked him three times during the last three years! We began to get red behind the cars, but we had our dignity to maintain and proceeded to to us for half a minute and then jumped up and ordered us out of the office. If the miserable critter had any idea that his pulling a gun on us would hasten our exit or abate one jot of our dignity, he discovered his mistake. We backed out certainly. A gentleman should be able to back out as well as a mule. The man who won't back with the muzzle of a revolver looking at the end of his Ipoman nose has sawdust in his head. Our exit was as near Chester-fieldian as could be looked for under the circumstances, and we have nothing to regret in that direction. It took us about even minutes to go to the office, buckle on our guns and return, but we could find nothing to shoot. The postmaster had hid-den himself, and we have failed to get sight of him to date. Although we want to be postmaster, we are not biased on that account. Our complaint is the complaint of all others. It is said that the critter was appointed because of his being related to a cabinet officer, but any cabinet officer who would admit the tie ought to be run

over by a herd of a thousand mules. He is not only a postmaster who can barely read and write, but has no social standing and plays the poorest game of poker of any offi-cial of the last administration. If overbearing in his manner to our home people his conduct toward strangers is simply outrageous. A couple of weeks ago a New England preacher who was on his vacation struck this town and called at the post-office for mail vhich he was certain had reached it. The postmaster was playing poker with Blackfoot Jim and yelled at the preacher to get out. The poor man was balf scared to death and didn't know what to do when be called at THE KICKER office. We lent him our gups and coached him on what to do, and he returned to the office, brought both shooters to bear on the postmaster and demanded his mail. He not only got six letters belonging to him, but a dozen directed to other people, and there were tears of gratitude in his eyes as he re-

turned our weapons.

It seems to be the general feeling among our citizens that we ought to shoot the postmaster again, and shoot him more fatally than ever before, but we would rather avoid trouble of that kind. So long as it is might look as if we shot him to create a cy for our benefit. However, we shall give the matter our serious consideration If he won't resign and return to mule

whacking, and if the postmaster general continues to be blind to the interests of his department, something will be done by somebody, and it will very likely result in a six back funeral process

A Test That Decided the Old Man to Stay Single. As I sat on the tavera veranda I noticed an old white headed colored man limping

OPENING HIS EYES.

down the street with painful effort. When he came opposite me, he took off his hat "Boss, kin I cum up dar an spoke to yo'

"Of course you can. What is it?" "Dar's a dispute bout my aige," he re-plied as he reached a chair and fell into it, "Dar's sartin pussons in dis town who say



"NOW, DEN, LOOK OUT!"

I ar' more'n a hundred y'ars ole, while I say I hain't a day ober fo'ty. Dey said yo' was a stranger heah, an I dun cum down to

"Does it make any particular difference what your age is?" I asked. "Dat's de pint, sah. I ar' thinkin some 'bout gittin married agin, but sartin pus-sons am dun blowin aroun dat l'ze got boaf feet in de grave.

"How old is the woman you have your

eye on!"
"Bout 16, I reckon, an one of de nicest gals yo' eber saw. Dey's blowed so much bout my aige dat she's dun got scart. Will yo' please tell me jest how ole yo' reckon I

He hadn't over three teeth in his head and was tottering with old age, but I didn't want to be too hard on him. I reached out my cane to another chair and rested the end about a foot from the floor

"A man under 60 years of age ought to be able to jump over that cane."
"Of co'se he had," was the prompt reply. "An I'll go ober it like a rabbit ober a log. Now, den, look out!"

He got up, swung his shriveled arms and

made a try at it, but as his feet left the floor he came down with a great jar and lay at full length. I helped him up and back into the chair, and his face wore a dubious expression for a couple of minutes as he rubbed away at his back. By and by Boss, I reckon boaf sides hev bin mis-

took 'bout my aige. I was mistook in thinkin I wasn't ober fo'ty, and dey was mistook in sayin I was ober 100. Reckon I'll

"And call yourself about 80?"
"Bout 80, sah. 'Bout 79 or 80." "And also give up the idea of marrying a girl of 16?"

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NO USE FOR A CANDIDATE.

He Didn't Fuifill the Requires They Wouldn't Have Him. They Wouldn't Have Him.

In the stage was a General Green, who was going over to Ellsworth to hold a political meeting. When about 10 miles from the town, we were met by a delegation of citizens mounted on horseback. The chairman of the delegation was a man who proudly carried the title of Death Shot Sam, and as soon as the stage had come to a halt he asked of the driver.

"Hey way got a critter alroad who calls."

"Hev you got a critter aboard who calls hisself Gineral Green or sunthin or other?" "I am General Green," replied that in-dividual as he got down. "This is a dele-gation, I take it?"

"Kerect, general. This are a delegachun what has cum out to meet you and ax a few queshums. In the fust place, you want to be 'lected to the legislachur, we take it?" "Well—ahem—I'm a candidate for state senator, I believe," replied the general.

"And you want our votes?" "Why, yes." "That's all plain shootin so fur. Now, then, what sort of a man are you? Kin you

ride a buckin broncho?" "I've never tried."

"Kin you throw the lasso?" "Never tried that, either."

"H'm! Ever killed anybody?" "How high did you ever bluff on a small

pair at poker?"
"I never played a game of poker in my

"Look a-here, gineral," continued the man as the blandness faded out of his face, "when you lieker, do you call up the boys

"It is very seldom that I indulge," re-plied the candidate.
"If a fellow called you a liar, how quick could you draw

"Draw what?" "Your guns, of course. Nobody out this way hain't time to draw an ax after bein called a liar!"

"I—I never carry a pistol," answered the colonel, with a puzzled look at the crowd taking in the conversation. "H'm! Gineral what are you doin over

"I came to address a meeting." "Yes, I reckon you did, but what are you

goin to say to the boys?"
"Why, I'll talk on various subjects of in-"No you won't, gineral-not if you want to live to get out o' town! That's what this

un cum out yere fur-to feel around and to tell you what not to do. I can't figger out how any of us hev got any use fur you. You can't ride, shoot, play poker, git drunk, bluff the town marshal nor set up the chain lightnin fur a thirsty crowd. You've rid over to make a speech, and they are goin to light the hall with 20 candles, but don't take no chances. You jest begin them remarks with Dan'l in the lions' den and end 'em with the battle of Waterloo. and you keep it in mind that if the boys git tired before you do they'll shoot out all the candles and then blaze away at you!

General Green reflected for awhile and then decided not to go on to Ellsworth, but to return by the other stage. When he made this decision known to the delegation, Dead Shot Sam replied:
"All right, gineral—all right. I was goin

to say if you wasn't purty well posted on Dan'i and Waterloo the boys might snuff you out fust and begin on the candles arter-wards. Delegashun-right face! Forward

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